

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, 14, 16-20, 22, 24, 25, 27-30, 31-33, 35, and 36 are pending. Claims 3, 12, 15, 21, 23, 26, 30, 34, and 36 have been cancelled. –In an office action mailed January 4, 2008, the Examiner indicated the allowability of dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 15-17, 21, 23, 24, 28, 30, 31, 34, and 36. The Examiner, however, objected to these claims as being dependent from a rejected base claim. To place the application in condition for allowance, independent Claims 1, 10, 14, 19, 22, 26, 29, 33, and 35 have each been amended to incorporate the limitations from one of the allowable claims.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103: The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9-11, 13, 18-20, 25-27, 29, 32, 33, and 37 as being unpatentable over US Pub 2003/0048484 to Seki in view of US Pub 2003/0203744 to Otsuka.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 3, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. For at least this reason, Claim 1 and Claims 2 and 4-9, which depend from Claim 1 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 12, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. For at least this reason, Claim 10 and Claims 11 and 13, which depend from Claim 10 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 18 depends from Claim 14. Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 15, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. For at least this reason, Claim 18 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 21, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. For at least this reason, Claim 19 and Claim 20, which depends from Claim 19 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 25 depends from Claim 22. Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 23, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. For at least this reason, Claim 25 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 28, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. For at least this reason, Claim 26 and Claim 27, which depends from Claim 26 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 30, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. For at least this reason, Claim 29 and Claims 31 and 32, which depend from Claim 29 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 33 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 34, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. For at least this reason, Claim 33 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 37 depends from Claim 35. Claim 35 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 36, a claim deemed allowable by the Examiner. For at least this reason, Claim 37 is patentable over the cited references.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102: The Examiner rejected Claims 14, 22, and 35 as being anticipated by US Pub 2003/0203744 to Otsuka. Claims 14, 22, and 35 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 15, 23, and 36 respectively. The Examiner has deemed Claims 15, 23, and 36 to be allowable.

For at least this reasons, Claims 14, 22, 35, and all Claims depending therefrom are patentable over Otsuka.

CONCLUSION: The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
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